

MARY L. COOK.

MAY 25, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

MR. KERR, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7971.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7971) granting a pension to Mary L. Cook, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to pension at \$12 per month Mary L. Cook, of Little Sandusky, Ohio, the widow of Thomas M. Cook, late surgeon One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers, who served from August 13, 1862, to June 12, 1865, and was honorably mustered out. He was granted a leave of absence during the service on certificate of disability for acrotal hernia. He filed a claim under the general law March 10, 1897, for hernia, but it was rejected on the ground that hernia existed prior to enlistment, as shown by his own affidavit.

He filed and established a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, and was pensioned thereunder for disease of rectum and impaired vision, at \$12 per month, from July 26, 1890, date of filing, to date of death, March 14, 1896.

Claimant has property which she rents for \$30 per month, and her interest on incumbrance, together with taxes, insurance, water rent, estimated repairs, etc., amounts to about \$200 per year.

The widow does not appear to have filed a claim under the general law, but has filed a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, which appears to be nearly complete, and awaiting calls made March 10, 1898.

Claimant was married to the soldier in 1839, and is now 74 years of age. Her little means will soon be exhausted in her necessary support. It seems plain that she is entitled to a pension, and in view of all the facts \$12 per month is a reasonable sum.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass, when amended as follows:

Lines 4 and 5, strike out the words "of the United States."

Line 7, strike out the words "a major and."

Strike out all after "Volunteers," in line 8, and insert the following: "and pay her a pension at the rate of \$12 per month."

